

wherein binding of said candidate compound to human NPC1L1 modulates binding of said detectably labeled substituted 2-azetidinone glucuronide to human NPC1L1, ~~wherein the detectably labeled substituted 2-azetidinone glucuronide has a binding affinity K_D value for human NPC1L1 that is 200nM or lower,~~ and wherein said modulation indicates that the candidate compound is a ligand that binds to human NPC1L1.

2-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[6]] 1, wherein the substituted 2-azetidinone-glucuronide comprises a detectable label from the group consisting of ^3H , ^{35}S and ^{125}I .

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the ~~detectable label is ^{35}S~~ substituted 2-azetidinone-glucuronide is a compound of Formula IIa.

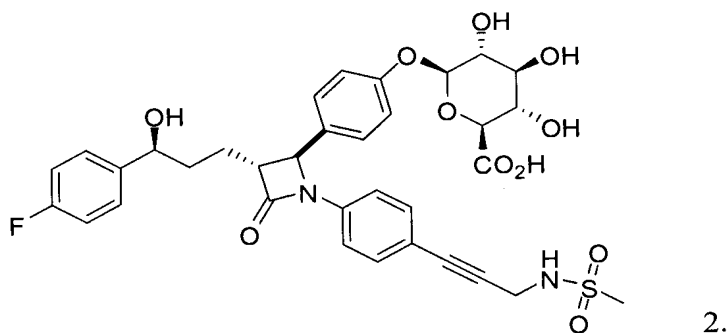
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[6]] 8, wherein the substituted 2-azetidinone-glucuronide is a compound of Formula IIa, wherein R^9 ~~comprises an $-\text{SO}_2-$~~ is selected from the group consisting of $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-\text{CH}_2-\text{NR}^{10}\text{R}^{11}$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^{10}\text{R}^{11}$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_3-\text{NR}^{10}-\text{SO}_2-\text{C}_{1-3}\text{alkyl}$ and $-(\text{CH}_2)_3-\text{NR}^{10}-\text{SO}_2\text{-phenyl}$, and R^{11} is selected from $-\text{SO}_2-\text{C}_{1-3}\text{alkyl}$ and $-\text{SO}_2\text{-phenyl}$.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the substituted 2-azetidinone-glucuronide of Formula IIa is labeled with ^{35}S .

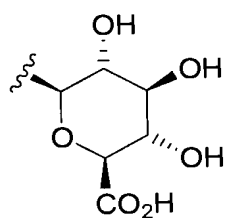
11-20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) The method of claim 10 wherein R^9 is $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-\text{CH}_2-\text{NR}^{10}\text{R}^{11}$.

22. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the detectably labeled substituted 2-azetidinone glucuronide is ^{35}S -labeled compound 2



23. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein R^{12} is



24. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the detectably labeled substituted 2-azetidinone glucuronide is selected from the group consisting of compound 1, compound 7 and compound 8.

25. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the detectably labeled substituted 2-azetidinone glucuronide comprises a detectable label selected from the group consisting of ^3H and ^{125}I .